

REMARKS

Claims 21-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-20 have been cancelled, and claims 21-28 have been added. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Rotheiser. Further, claims 1, 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ham, and claims 1, 3 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Merritt et al., Keller et al., Dudley et al. or Boeckermann et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 21-28 are not anticipated by any of the above-listed prior art. In particular, independent claim 21 has been revised to include the subject matter of original claim 1, parts of claim 4 and claim 5. (Applicant has also removed limitations from claim 21, which were unnecessary.) As such, claim 21 now recites, *inter alia*, “the filtration member further comprising a support member inserted in the annular groove” of the air cleaner coupling. Despite the Office’s detailed analysis relative to the claims, this feature was apparently overlooked in the prior Office

Action. Applicant submits that none of the prior art of record discloses the claimed invention including the support member.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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